GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5280
ANSWERED ON:14.05.2007
DESALINATION OF WATER
Bose Shri Subrata

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the States where salinity of water is more, rank-wise;

(b) the States which have requested the Union Government for financial assistance or technical assistance to desalinate the water; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) Studies carried out by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), under the Ministry of Water Resources have indicated the problem of salinity in ground water in various parts of the country. CGWB monitors ground water quality at regional scale through a network of over 15000 observation wells throughout the country. The salinity of water varies from area to area even within a State and hence no State-wise ranking is done. Salinity in ground water is of two types viz. inland salinity, wherein, fresh water floats over saline water and coastal salinity. Inland salinity has been noticed in parts of Andhra Pradesh, NCT of Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. While, salinity in coastal aquifers has been noticed in parts of Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Diu and Pondicherry.

(b) & (c) 'Water' being a State subject, it is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to plan, finance and execute schemes to desalinate water. Ministry of Water Resources has not received any proposal for technical assistance in the matter from the Sates. However, the Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Drinking Water Supply) provides financial and technical assistance to States through a Centrally Sponsored Schemes, namely Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), for supply of drinking water as per the stipulated norms. 20% of ARWSP funds is retained at the Centre and released to States on need-basis to tackle water quality problems. To ensure safe drinking water supply to all the urban population of the country, the Ministry of Urban Development have launched two new programmes, viz. Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) and Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT), to provide infrastrcture facilities to 5161 urban towns of the country. The project envisages to provide safe drinking water to every citizen of India within a time frame of 7 years.